

had now sat upon them nearly ten weeks, was evidently suffering from the effects of a fast of thirty-two weeks, and there appeared to be no reasonable prospect of hatching the eggs, they were removed. On examination, we found about five or six with the embryos partially formed. In one of these the embryo was about 11 inches in length, the scaling and markings were shown, the colour was partially developed, and the animal was evidently nearly ready for exclusion. But the greater number of eggs contained only fatty matter in a state of decomposition, and bore no traces of having ever been impregnated.

A single egg removed from the mother fifteen days after incubation commenced, curiously enough, chanced to be a good one. The embryo contained in this was alive when it was opened, and measured about 6 inches in length.

About a month after the eggs were removed, the snake, which had been at first very restless, changed her skin, fed as usual, and has since remained in good health.

I think that the present case, taken in conjunction with that which happened in 1841 at Paris, and that of the Indian Python, kindly communicated to me by George O. Wray, Esq., and already noticed at a previous Meeting of this Society*, lead to the conclusion that it is the normal habit of these highly developed Ophidians, the *Pythones*, to incubate their eggs much as in the superior class of birds. But it would appear that the Boas of the New World do not follow the same practice; for Mr. Westerman informs me that the female *Boa constrictor*, which bred in the Zoological Gardens of Amsterdam in 1861, brought forth living young ones, though some eggs were produced at the same time.

6. ON SOME BIRDS TO BE ADDED TO THE AVI-FAUNA OF MEXICO. BY P. L. SCLATER, M.A., PH.D., F.R.S., SECRETARY TO THE SOCIETY.

(Plate XLVI.)

In a small collection of Mexican birds sent to me for examination by M. F. Parzudaki, of Paris, I recognize several species new to the fauna of Mexico, and not mentioned in my former communications to this Society on the subject of Mexican ornithology, and others requiring some few remarks. These are—

1. *DENDRECA SUPERCILIOSA* (Bodd.), Baird, B. N. A. p. 289.

This specimen differs from others in my collection from N. America and Jamaica in having the whole supercilia anterior to the eye bright yellow, like the breast. Yet it is obviously not in full plumage, being dull brownish grey above, and with the black markings hardly defined. Prof. Baird alludes (*l. c.*) to somewhat similar variations. At first I could hardly persuade myself that it was not of a different species.

See P. Z. S. 1862, p. 108.

2. *VIREO HYPOCHRYSEUS*, sp. nov. (Pl. XLVI.)

Flavicanti-olivaceus, alis fuscis dorsi colore extus marginatis: fronte, superciliis et toto corpore subtus flavis, hypochondriis paululum olivacescentibus: rostro corneo, pedibus fuscis.

Long. tota 5·0, alæ 2·5, caudæ 2·2, rostri a rictu 0·7, tarsi 0·8, rem. prim. spurii 0·95 poll. Angl. et dec.

This *Vireo* is very distinct in coloration from any other species known to me, and is also slightly abnormal in form. The wings are very short, only reaching $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch beyond the base of the tail. The longest primaries are about 0·3 inch longer than the secondaries. The first primary is unusually well developed, being only 0·75 inch shorter than the second. The bill is more elongated, and broader at the base than is usual in the genus, and nearly resembles that of a diminutive *Icteria*. The single specimen received from M. Parzudaki is the only example I have seen of this interesting bird.

3. *MELOSPIZA GOULDII*, Baird, B. N. A. p. 479 (?).

A skin of a *Melospiza*, received through M. Parzudaki, agrees with the Californian specimen which I have identified (Cat. Am. B. p. 113) with Baird's *Melospiza gouldii*. But I cannot pretend to say but what I am doubtful about the discrimination of the allied species of this group, and must remain so until I have the opportunity of comparing authentically determined specimens with those in my own collection.

4. *GLYPHORHYNCHUS MAJOR*, Sclater, Cat. Am. B. p. 161.

Mexican specimens of this northern form of *G. cuneatus* agree with Guatemalan examples obtained by Mr. O. Salvin.

5. *ELAINIA SUBPAGANA*, Sclater & Salv. 'Ibis,' 1860, p. 36.

Mexican examples of this northern form of *E. pagana*, do not seem to differ from the typical specimen from Guatemala in my collection.

6. *AGAMIA PICTA*, Reichb. Bp. Consp. p. 127. *Ardea agami*, Gm.

A bird in immature plumage appears to belong to this species, which, as far as I am aware, has not been previously noticed so far north.

7. *MICROPALAMA HIMANTOPUS*, Bp., Baird, N. A. B. p. 726; Coues, P. Acad. Sc. Philad. 1861, p. 174.

I am not aware that this Sandpiper has been previously noticed so far south, except in the one instance of Mr. Salvin's having obtained it in Guatemala, as recorded in the 'Ibis'*.

8. *ACTODROMAS BAIRDII*, Coues, Proc. Acad. Sc. Philad. 1861 p. 194.

Judging by Mr. Coues's descriptions, a Mexican Sandpiper received from M. Parzudaki, and labelled "*A. maculata?*," must be referred to this species, which is in fact a small *A. maculata*.

* Ibis, 1859, p. 229.